

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/549,361

Examiner

Fred Prince

Applicant(s)

GERTEIS ET AL.

Art Unit

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to May 2, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-34.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Fred G. Prince
FRED G. PRINCE
PRIMARY EXAMINER
8/18/06

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: While it known in the art to provide a an inverting-filter centrifuge comprising a filter drum radial pass-through openings, and projects which is rotatably supported machine frame housing that is connected to the machine frame, said filter drum radially enclosing a centrifugal chamber that can be placed under normal pressure, overpressure or underpressure, comprising a centrifugal chamber lid that closes the centrifugal chamber at its face end, comprising a pusher bottom that is rigidly joined to the centrifugal chamber lid while leaving a free space and defining the other side of the centrifugal chamber, wherein the centrifugal chamber is filled from the side, the filter drum and pusher bottom are caused to rotate in unison by means of a rotatably driven hollow shaft and the hollow shaft is firmly connected to the filter drum, an axially displaceable pusher shaft is disposed inside the hollow shaft rotating is unison with it, the filter drum and pusher bottom are moved relative to one another by means of an axial displacement of the pusher shaft in order to run up the filter cloth and expel separated solids from the centrifugal chamber into a solids collection chamber (see, for example, US Pat No 5,304,306 to Gerteis), in the examiner's opinion, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest the centrifuge further comprising the centrifugal chamber is closed at its face end by a non-perforated centrifugal chamber lid that is closed across its entire surface, that the pusher bottom defining the centrifugal chamber on the other side is firmly connected to the rotating pusher shaft and that an opening extending through the pusher bottom and opening into the centrifugal chamber passes through the pusher

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shaft along its entire length to its end facing away from the centrifugal chamber and transitions, via an inlet pipe that is rigidly joined to a radially static pusher plate into an inlet channel that is connected to the pusher plate, and a passage is thus created for media to be entered into the centrifugal chamber, said passage being sealed against the environment by means of a seal arranged between the rotating pusher shaft and the pusher plate that is axially connected to it. The instant invention provides the advantages provided on pages 7 and 8 of the instant specification.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fred Prince whose telephone number is (571) 272-1165. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 6:30-4:00; alt. Fridays 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Fred Prince
Primary Examiner
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fgp
8/18/08